WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method of automatically notifying one or more
2   contacts regarding travel plans, the method
3   comprising:
4   scheduling the travel plans using a computer system;
5   recording the scheduled travel plans on a nonvolatile
6   storage device connected to the computer system;
7   and
8   sending a message to each of the contacts in response
9   to the scheduling.

1 2. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
2   grouping the contacts into a plurality of classes;
3   wherein the sending further includes:
4   providing varying levels of detail corresponding
5   to the travel plans to the contacts based
6   upon the class corresponding to each
7   contact.

1 3. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
2   providing a contact method for each of the contacts,
3   wherein the contact method includes at least one
4   of sending an email message, sending a facsimile,
5   sending a voice mail, sending a page, and sending
6   a data stream using a predefined protocol.

1 4. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
2   reading a user profile, the user profile stored on a
3   nonvolatile storage device;
4   wherein the reading determines the message to use for
5   each contact.

1 5.   The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:

2   grouping the contacts into a plurality of classes;

3   wherein the sending further includes:

4   providing varying levels of detail corresponding

5   to the travel plans to the contacts based

6   upon the class corresponding to each

7   contact.

1 6.   A method of automatically setting a home automation

2   system based upon a user's travel plans, the method

3   comprising:

4   scheduling the travel plans using a computer system;

5   recording the scheduled travel plans on a nonvolatile

6   storage device connected to the computer system;

7   sending a message to the home automation system; and

8   setting a home automation environment in the home

9   automation system.

1 7.   The method as described in claim 6 further comprising:

2   registering the home automation system with an email

3   system;

4   wherein the sending further comprises sending an

5   electronic message from the email system to the

6   home automation system.

1 8.   The method as described in claim 6 wherein the setting

2   further includes:

3   setting a travel home automation environment in

4   response to the message indicating that the user

5   is traveling.

1   9.   The method as described in claim 6 wherein the sending

2   includes transferring the message using a secure

3   transmission protocol.

1   10.   The method as described in claim 6 further comprising:

2   storing home automation environment data in a user

3   profile stored on a nonvolatile storage device;

4   reading the home automation environment data from the

5   user profile; and

6   creating the message based on the read home automation

7   environment data.

1   11.   An information handling system comprising:

2   one or more processors;

3   a memory accessible by the processors;

4   a nonvolatile storage device accessible by the

5   processors; and

6   a contact notification tool, the contact notification

7   tool including:

8   means for scheduling the travel plans using a

9   computer system;

10   means for recording the scheduled travel plans on

11   a nonvolatile storage device connected to

12   the computer system; and

13   means for sending a message to each of the

14   contacts in response to the scheduling.

1   12.   The information handling system as described in claim

2   11 wherein one of the contacts includes a home

3   automation system and the system further comprises:

4   means for setting a home automation environment in the

5   home automation system in response to the

6   message.

1   13.   The information handling system as described in claim

2   12 further comprising:

3   means for registering the home automation system with

4   an email system;

5   wherein the sending further comprises:

6   means for sending an electronic message from an

7   email system to the home automation system.

1   14.   The information handling system as described in claim

2   12 further comprising:

3   means for storing home automation environment data in

4   a user profile stored on a nonvolatile storage

5   device;

6   means for reading the home automation environment data

7   from the user profile; and

8   means for creating the message based on the read home

9   automation environment data.

1   15.   The information handling system as described in claim

2   11 further comprising:

3   means for grouping the contacts into a plurality of

4   classes;

5   wherein the means for sending further includes:

6   means for providing varying levels of detail

7   corresponding to the travel plans to the

8   contacts based upon the class corresponding

9   to each contact.

1   16.   The information handling system as described in claim
2   11 further comprising:
3   means for providing a contact method for each of the
4   contacts, wherein the contact method includes at
5   least one of sending an email message, sending a
6   voice mail, sending a facsimile, sending a page,
7   and sending a data stream using a predefined
8   protocol.

1   17.   The information handling system as described in claim
2   11 further comprising:
3   means for reading a user profile, the user profile
4   stored on a nonvolatile storage device; and
5   means for determining the message to use for each
6   contact based on the user profile.

1   18.   A computer program product for notifying contacts,
2   said computer program product comprising:
3   means for scheduling the travel plans using a computer
4   system;
5   means for recording the scheduled travel plans on a
6   nonvolatile storage device connected to the
7   computer system; and
8   means for sending a message to each of the contacts in
9   response to the scheduling.

1   19.   The computer program product as described in claim 18
2   wherein one of the contacts includes a home automation
3   system and the system further comprises:
4   means for setting a home automation environment in the
5   home automation system in response to the
6   message.

1   20.   The computer program product as described in claim 19
2   further comprising:
3   means for registering the home automation system with
4   an email system;
5   wherein the sending further comprises:
6   means for sending an electronic message from an
7   email system to the home automation system.

1   21.   The computer program product as described in claim 19
2   further comprising:
3   means for storing home automation environment data in
4   a user profile stored on a nonvolatile storage
5   device;
6   means for reading the home automation environment data
7   from the user profile; and
8   means for creating the message based on the read home
9   automation environment data.

1   22.   The computer program product as described in claim 18
2   further comprising:
3   means for grouping the contacts into a plurality of
4   classes;
5   wherein the means for sending further includes:
6   means for providing varying levels of detail
7   corresponding to the travel plans to the
8   contacts based upon the class corresponding
9   to each contact.

1   23.   The computer program product as described in claim 18
2   further comprising:
3   means for providing a contact method for each of the
4   contacts, wherein the contact method includes at

5   least one of sending an email message, sending a

6   voice mail, sending a facsimile, sending a page,

7   and sending a data stream using a predefined

8   protocol.

1   24. The computer program product as described in claim 18

2   further comprising:

3   means for reading a user profile, the user profile

4   stored on a nonvolatile storage device; and

5   means for determining the message to use for each

6   contact based on the user profile.